

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING

Appended hereto as attachments are replacement formal drawing sheets to replace the drawings that were included in the published PCT application. The PCT drawings have been amended to delete the PCT application and publication numbers; to delete the boxes surrounding the figure numbers; to correct misspellings on Figures 2A, 2B, 3, and 5, and to insert a missing word in the ordinate axis identification in Figure 8.

Also appended hereto are copies of the published PCT drawings showing in red the amendments that are reflected on the attached replacement drawing sheets.

REMARKS

The substitute specification together with the amended claims and amended drawings place the present U.S. national phase application in better form for examination on the merits. New claims 17 and 18 are based upon original claims 1 and 9, respectively, and relate to subject matter originally recited as preferable in those claims.

Also attached hereto is an Abstract of the Disclosure presented on a separate sheet in conformity with the rules of practice.

Based upon the specification, drawing, and claim amendments to this national phase application, it is believed that the amended specification, the amended drawing, and the amended claims conform with U.S. formal requirements.

Additionally, the amended claims as hereinabove presented conform in substance with the corresponding amended claims that were examined in the international application. And based upon the acceptance by the International Preliminary Examining Authority of the invention as it was claimed in the amended claims that were presented in the course of the examination of the international application as meeting each of the novelty, the inventive step, and the industrial applicability criteria set forth in the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the claims as amended above are believed to conform both with U.S. formal requirements as well as with U.S. substantive requirements, and they are therefore believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is in order and is respectfully solicited.

Should the examiner have any question after considering this Preliminary Amendment, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that any such question can be quickly resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Attachment A
Attachment B
Abstract of the Disclosure
Annotated drawing sheets showing the changes
Replacement drawing sheets including the changes